

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed January 9, 2009. With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 21, and 27-34 are canceled without prejudice and claims 3-5, 8-13, 17, 20, 22-26 and 35-39 are amended. Claims 3-5, 8-20, 22-26 and 35-40 are now pending in the application, and are in condition for allowance.

According to the Office Action, claim 7 contains allowable subject matter. (Office Action Summary, ¶ 5.) Independent claim 5 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7 and intervening claim 6. Claims 8-12 are amended to depend from claim 5. In addition, claims 1 and 2 are cancelled and claims 3 and 4, which previously depended from claim 1, are amended to depend from claim 5. Thus claims 3-5 and 8-12 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action also indicates that claims 13-20 are allowable. (Office Action Summary, ¶ 5.) Claims 13, 17 and 20 are amended only to address issues of antecedent basis. Claim 21 is cancelled. Claims 22 and 23, which previously depended from claim 21, are amended to depend from claim 13, and claims 24-26 are amended to depend from claim 16. Thus claims 13-20 and 22-26 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 27-33 were previously withdrawn from consideration, as drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 27-33 are canceled. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the renumbering of claims 34-40, which were misnumbered claims 27-33 in a previous amendment.

Claim 34 is canceled. Claims 35 and 36 are amended to depend from claim 5, and claim 37 is amended to depend from claim 36. Claim 38 is amended to depend from claim 13, and claim 39 is amended to depend from claim 38. Claim 40 depends from claim 9, which now depends from claim 5. Thus claims 35-40 are also in condition for allowance.

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Application No.: 10/721,929

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With this Amendment, claims 3–5, 8–20, 22–26 and 35–40 are now pending in the application. Each of these claims is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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